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ABSTRACT

The lead essay in this collection, "Educating a Democracy" by Deborah Meier, rejects the idea of a centralized authority that dictates how and what teachers teach. Standardization prevents citizens from shaping their own schools, classrooms, and communities. Schools teach democratic virtues and provide much of this teaching by example. Standardization can threaten this instruction. The following responses to Meier's essay are included: (1) "No Excuses" (Abigail Thernstrom); (2) "Making a Difference" (Bob Chase); (3) "Expert Opinion" (Gary B. Nash); (4) "Habits of Mind" (Linda Nathan); (5) "The Case for Standards" (Richard J. Murnane); (6) "The Standards Fraud" (William Ayers); and (7) "A Sense of Place" (TheodoreSizer). In closing, Deborah Meier answers these responses. (SLD)

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